UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2172	

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2003   *6*

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 07-01)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/681,183	CAPPS, STEPHAN P.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Chongshan Chen	2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>26 June 2003</u> .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-50* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-50* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6)☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is responsive to communications: Amendment A, filed on 6/26/03. This

action is non-final.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-50 have been considered but are moot in

view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4.   Claims 1-9, 11, 13-15, 24-30, 35-45 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being

anticipated by Appelt et al. ("Appelt", 6,601,026).

As per claim 1, Appelt teaches a system for automatically alerting a user to available

information comprising:

parsing an electronic document, said electronic documents including any of a word

processor document an Internet Web page, a spreadsheet, any textual and graphical data rendered

on a display device, to identify data representing any person (Appelt, col. 5, lines 37-43);

identifying at least one person represented by the identified data (Appelt, Fig. 3, col. 5,

lines 37-43, the information extraction engine 108 *parses* free-text documents to *identify* topics

and objects (*people, ...*), col. 9, lines 15-21);

retrieving information relating to each identified person from at least one electronic

database (Appelt, Fig. 1, 120, user queries, col. 11, lines 14-49); and

notifying the user that the retrieved information is available (Appelt, Fig. 5, 408, Send

response to user).

As per claim 2, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1,

and further teaches providing at least one communication access point (Appelt, Fig. 12).

As per claim 3, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 2,

and further teaches communication access point provides the user with an access point for

initiating communication with each identified person (Appelt, col. 12, lines 48 - 67).

As per claim 4, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 3,

and further teaches the at least one access point for initiating communication includes any of an

email address, an instant messaging account, a telephone number, a fax number, a physical

address, and an Internet address for communicating with the identified person (Appelt, Fig. 12,

col. 12, lines 48-67, system have internet address in order to connect to internet).

As per claim 5, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1,

and further teaches parsing an electronic document to identify data representing any person

comprises identifying textual data associated with any person (Appelt, Fig. 3, col. 5, lines 37-43).

As per claim 6, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1,

and further teaches the textual data associated with any person includes any of: a name, an email

address, a telephone number, a fax number, and a social security number (Appelt, Fig. 3, col. 5,

lines 37-43, col. 10, lines 6-11).

As per claim 7, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1,

and further teaches identifying graphical data associated with any person (Appelt, col. 5, lines

13-18, multimedia source).

As per claim 8, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 7,

and further teaches identifying graphical data associated with any person (Appelt, col. 5, lines

13-18).

As per claim 9, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1,

and further teaches comparing the identified data to information in at least one electronic

database (Appelt, Fig. 5 & 6, col. 11, lines 14-49).

As per claim 11, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1,

and further teaches providing a visible alert when the information is retrieved (Appelt, Fig. 12,

Display, col. 11, lines 38-49).

As per claim 13, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 11,

and further teaches modifying the appearance of the electronic document (Appelt, col. 11, lines

38-49).

As per claim 14, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 13,

and further teaches changing the appearance of the identified data (Appelt, col. 11, lines 38-49).

As per claim 15, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 14,

and further teaches associating at least one hyperlink with the identified data (Appelt, col. 11,

lines 38-49).

As per claim 24, Appelt teaches a computer-implemented process for automatically

providing information on a computer display device, comprising:

scanning electronic data being rendered on the computer display device to identify

information within the electronic data that represents at least one person (Appelt, col. 5, lines 37-

43);

identifying each person represented by the identified information (Appelt, Fig. 3, col. 5,

lines 37-43, the information extraction engine 108 *parses* free-text documents to *identify* topics

and objects (*people, ...*), col. 9, lines 15-21);

retrieving information relating to each identified person from at least one electronic

database (Appelt, Fig. 1, 120, user queries, col. 11, lines 14-49); and

providing an alert for indicating that the retrieved information is available (Appelt, Fig. 5,

408, Send response to user).

As per claim 25, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 24,

and further teach viewing the retrieved information; and initiating communications with the

identified person via at least one communication access point (Appelt, Fig. 1, 12).

Claims 26-28 are rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for

claims 13-15.

As per claim 29, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 26,

and further teaches changing the appearance of graphical information representing the identified

information (Appelt, col. 11, lines 38-49).

As per claim 30, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 29,

and further teaches associating at least one hyperlink (Appelt, col. 11, lines 38-49).

As per claim 35, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 24, and further teaches communication access point for initiating communications with each identified person (Appelt, Fig. 12).

As per claim 36, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 24, and further teaches comparing the identified information to data in at least one electronic database (Appelt, Fig. 5 & 6, col. 11, lines 14-49).

As per claim 37, Appelt teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for dynamically modifying an electronic document rendered on a computer display device, said computer executable instructions comprising:

detecting any information in the electronic document that represents at least one person (Appelt, col. 5, lines 37-43);

identifying each person based on a comparison of the detected information to data in at least one electronic database (Appelt, Fig. 3, 5 & 6, col. 5, lines 37-43, col. 8, lines 8-55);

retrieving data related to each identified person from at least one electronic database (Appelt, Fig. 1, 120, user queries, col. 11, lines 14-49); and

dynamically modifying the electronic document by changing the appearance of the electronic document for alerting a user that data related to each identified person has been retrieved (Appelt, Fig. 5, 408, Send response to user, col. 11, lines 38-49).

As per claim 38, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 37, and further teaches identifying any data associated with any person (Appelt, col. 5, lines 37-43, col. 10, lines 6-11).

As per claim 39, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 38, and further teaches identifying characteristics of at least one image within the electronic document using at least one image recognition technique (Appelt, col. 5, lines 13-18).

As per claim 40, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 37, and further teaches retrieving any of personal data and contact information from the at least one electronic database (Appelt, Fig. 5).

As per claim 41, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 37, and further teaches changing the appearance of any text associated with the detected information (Appelt, col. 11, lines 38-49).

As per claim 42, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 41, and further teaches associating at least one hyperlink with the text associated with the detected information (Appelt, col. 11, lines 38-49).

As per claim 43, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 42, and further teaches hyperlink includes at least one link to the retrieved data (Appelt, col. 11, lines 38-49).

As per claim 44, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 43, and further teaches communication access point (Appelt, Fig. 12).

As per claim 45, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 37, and further teach changing the appearance of any image associated with the detected information and by associating at least one hyperlink with each image (Appelt, col. 11, lines 38-49).

As per claim 50, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 37, and further teaches a user interface for interacting with the retrieved data (Appelt, Fig. 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

6.   Claims 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Appelt

et al. ("Appelt", 6,601,026).

As per claim 10, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1,

except for explicitly disclosing providing an audible alert when the information is retrieved.

However, the computer system disclosed by Appelt has speakers (Appelt, col. 13, lines 1-2),

therefore, the computer system has the capability to provide an audible alert. Therefore, it would

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

provide an audible alert in order to notify the user the information is retrieved.

As per claim 12, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1,

and further teaches providing a visible alert when the information is retrieved (Appelt, Fig. 12,

Display, col. 11, lines 38-49). Appelt does not explicitly teach providing an audible alert when

the information is retrieved. However, the computer system disclosed by Appelt has speakers

(Appelt, col. 13, lines 1-2), therefore, the computer system has the capability to provide an

audible alert. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

the invention was made to provide an audible alert in order to notify the user the information is

retrieved.

7.   Claims 16-23, 31-34 and 46-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Appelt et al. ("Appelt", 6,601,026) in view of Appelman et al. ("Appelman", 6,539,421).

As per claim 16, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 11,

except for explicitly disclosing adding at least one presence indicator. Appelman teaches online

status indicator (Appelman, col. 5, lines 52-54). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Appelman with Appelt in

order to notify the user about the online status of the identified person.

As per claim 17, Appelt and Appelman teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed

in claim 16, and further teach determining an online status for each identified person by querying

at least one messaging account server for each identified person (Appelman, col. 5, lines 43-65).

As per claim 18, Appelt and Appelman teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed

in claim 17, and further teach each presence indicator graphically represents the online status of

each identified person (Appelman, col. 5, lines 43-65).

As per claim 19, Appelt and Appelman teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed

in claim 18, except for explicitly disclosing the graphical representation of the online status of

each identified person is automatically updated by re-querying the at least one messaging

account server for each identified person. However, any person has used instant message knows

the online/offline status is a live status, when a buddy goes online or offline, the online status

will be automatically updated. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

the art at the time the invention was made to automatically update the online status of each

identified person by re-querying the at least one messaging account server in order to display the

identified person's current online status.

As per claim 20, Appelt and Appelman teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, and further teach a graphical user interface for interacting with the retrieved information (Appelman, Fig. 3).

As per claim 21, Appelt and Appelman teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 20, and further teach the graphical user interface comprises at least one pop-up window for displaying the retrieved information for each identified person (Appelman, Fig. 5).

As per claim 22, Appelt and Appelman teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 20, and further teach the graphical user interface comprises at least one context-sensitive menu for interacting with the retrieved information for each identified person (Appelman, Fig. 3, 5).

As per claim 23, Appelt and Appelman teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 20, and further teach the graphical user interface comprises at least one hyperlink for accessing the retrieved information for each identified person via a computer pointing device (Appelman, Fig. 3-5).

As per claim 31, Appelt teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 26, except for explicitly disclosing adding at least one presence indicator to the electronic data. Appelman teaches online status indicator (Appelman, col. 5, lines 52-54). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Appelman with Appelt in order to notify the user about the online status of the identified person.

As per claim 32, Appelt and Appelman teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 31, and further teach an associated pop-up window for providing the retrieved information to a user (Appelman, Fig. 3-5).

As per claim 33, Appelt and Appelman teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 31, and further teach an associated context-sensitive menu for providing the retrieved information to a user (Appelman, Fig. 5).

As per claim 34, Appelt and Appelman teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 31, and further teach indicating an online status of each identified person (Appelman, Fig. 3-5, col. 5, lines 52-54).

Claims 46-49 are rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claims 31-34.

Conclusion

8.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Handel et al. (6,195,651) disclose a system obtains user profile information, parsing the content of the particular application, matching the parsed content to user profile information and presenting the parsed content matches in a format based on information in the user's profile on a display (col. 1, lines 55-60).

Yamakita (6,272,490) discloses document data linking apparatus.

Lee (Pub. No.: US 2002/0087521 A1) disclose name searching.
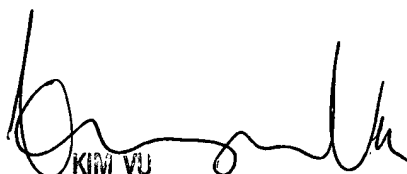
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Chongshan Chen whose telephone number is (703) 305-8319.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:00 am - 4:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Kim Y Vu can be reached on (703)305-4393. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

Chongshan Chen
9/5/03

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